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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-91-009
Monday
14 January 1990

Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-91-009

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Kenya

Kaunda Returns From 'Mission Impossible' in Iraq

AB1201203691 Paris AFP in English 2017 GMT
12 Jan 91

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 12 (AFP)—Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said Saturday his two-day visit to Iraq where he held talks on ways to avert war with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had been a "mission impossible".

A gloomy looking Mr. Kaunda, who arrived in the Kenyan capital from Baghdad late Saturday for a one-hour stopover before returning to Zambia, told journalists that his impression was that Iraq "will not withdraw."

"I'd like to believe that there is still a chance for negotiations," he said.

But Mr. Kaunda, a personal friend of Mr. Husayn, who last year helped secure the release of British nurse Daphne Parish, jailed in Iraq on charges of being an accomplice to espionage, said: "This one was mission impossible."

Mr. Kaunda did hint, however, that he had a new initiative up his sleeve, but said: "I will have to report back home first. If they think my approach is correct, then I will make it public."

"The situation is critical, serious and very explosive," he told journalists at an airport press conference here. Calling for further efforts to find a negotiated solution, he said that if war broke out, "Mankind is going to face something it has never faced before."

Asked for his assessment of the Iraqi leader's mood, he said "It's the same as before."

Ortega, 'Arafat on 'Similar Mission'

EA1301130491 Nairobi KTN Television
in English 1000 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia made an hour-long stopover at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport yesterday evening. He was on his way to Lusaka from Baghdad where he met President Saddam Husayn. The plane carrying President Kaunda touched down at 2030. He said the situation in the Gulf was critical, dangerous, and explosive. President Kaunda said if the situation did not change, the resulting war would be a total disaster to mankind.

[Begin Kaunda recording] The situation is just as you have known about it. It is critical, serious, and very explosive indeed. While I was there, a former head of state of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, arrived; he is on a similar mission. And as you no doubt know, the secretary general of the UN has also arrived there today. President Yasir 'Arafat arrived this morning on a similar mission. The various missions that are going to Baghdad show clearly how much mankind is worried about developments in the Gulf.

I believe that you want to know what my impressions were. I could not have put it better than what I've said: The situation is critical, dangerous, explosive, and if come 15 January nothing is achieved—at least to suspend the possibility of hostilities taking place—then mankind is going to face something it has never faced before, in my humble opinion. So everything must be done to avoid that human catastrophe overtaking us. [end-recording]

PRC Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Meets With Moi

EA1001161891 Nairobi Domestic Service
in English 1000 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today once again appealed to Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait in order to avert a possible holocaust. He observed that the withdrawal would stop loss of life of both the people of the Gulf Region and the multinational force which is poised for military combat against Iraq. The president said Kenya valued the sanctity of life for all mankind without discrimination. President Moi was speaking at State House, Mombasa, when he received the visiting Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen. President Moi said Kenya's stand was based on the principle of respect for the sovereignty of all nations, irrespective of their size.

On bilateral relations, President Moi praised the long-standing friendship existing between the two countries. He said his visits to China in 1980 and 1988 were aimed at strengthening these relations. The frequent exchange of visits by government and party officials of the two countries also helped in fostering understanding and closer cooperation, observed President Moi. He thanked China for its fruitful development cooperation with Kenya, adding that all the projects the country had undertaken in Kenya had been completed on time. President Moi cited the Moi International Sports Center, Kasarani, as an example which, he said, had raised the level of sports in Kenya. The president said Kenya wished to learn from China's advanced technology, especially in the growing of rice and management of rivers which were prone to flooding. He assured the foreign minister that although Kenya believed in trading with all nations of the world, Kenya believed in one China.

On domestic affairs, President Moi said Kenya was guided by its own policies, based on the people's way of life and local realities. He had at the same time commended China for its similar policies which had enabled the country to grow in peace and stability. President Moi said there was need to increase the volume of trade between the two countries.

The Chinese foreign minister commended President Moi for guiding Kenya to assume an important role in the region. He also emphasized that every country must formulate its development based on the local realities.

The foreign minister brought a message of goodwill from the Chinese president. [passage omitted]

Calls on Iraq To Show 'Flexibility'

*EA1001223291 Nairobi KNA in English 1814 GMT
10 Jan 91*

[Excerpt] Mombasa, 10 Jan (KNA)—Kenya and China today called on the international community to exhaustively look for a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Gulf. The two countries' foreign ministers, Mr. Ndolo Ayah of Kenya and Qian Qichen of China, stated that efforts should be further pressed to prevent the outbreak of a war as long as there is hope for peace.

Mr. Ndolo Ayah was hosting the Chinese minister for luncheon at a Mombasa Hotel, who is paying a visit to Kenya. [sentence as received] Mr. Ayah said Kenya is greatly concerned about the crisis in the Gulf, particularly as it is a result of invasion of one country by another, which is against Kenya's policy.

The Chinese minister noted that the Gulf crisis has drawn attention in the whole world and regretted that the just concluded talks between the foreign ministers of the USA and Iraq did not produce any meaningful fruits. He said China supports the good offices of the Arab countries and the UN secretary general and called on Iraq to show flexibility on the question of withdrawal from Kuwait.

On bilateral relations, the Chinese minister noted that his country is ready to join hands with the Kenya Government to actively explore and open up new areas and channels for beneficial cooperation. Mr. Qichen said China is ready to make due contributions to the establishment of a fair and equitable new international political and economic order to maintain and promote world peace.

The Kenyan minister, however, noted that Kenya experienced an unfavorable balance of payments position, which, he said, could be rectified by reducing the trade gap through a vigorous marketing campaign by businessmen of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Criticizes 'Foreign Troops' in Gulf

*EA1101173391 Nairobi KNA in English 1328 GMT
11 Jan 91*

[Text] Nairobi, 11 January (KNA)—The visiting Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, today said that African countries facing a reduction of Western aid should promote regional cooperation and self-reliance and reduce over-reliance on external aid. He said China, as a developing country with a population increase of between 15,000,000 to 17,000,000, cannot effectively fill the vacuum created by the shortfall of financial aid from Western countries, which are currently being taken to the emerging democracies in Eastern European countries. He said the best the Chinese Government could do was to promote and strengthen economic ties with the continent.

On political reforms which are being advocated for Africa by Western countries as condition for aid, Mr. Qichen, who was accompanied by the Chinese ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Wu Minglian, at a press conference in a Nairobi hotel, said that China supported political reforms, but believed that there was no single political model which is suitable for all African countries. He said that each country should be left to map out its own political destiny and choose its own political model that suits their realities.

He said that his visit to the continent of Africa, which has taken him to Ethiopia, Uganda and [he] goes to Tanzania after his Kenyan visit, was to enhance [the] relationship between his country and the continent, especially after the leading role the country took in supporting the national liberation movements in the continent in the 1960's.

On the Gulf crisis, Mr. Qichen said his country was against the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and the amassing of foreign troops in the Middle East and called for a peaceful settlement to the problem. He said that the best way to achieve a peaceful solution that may not injure the world economy, including Africa's, was the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, which was occupied on 2nd August last year. He said the amassing of foreign troops in the Middle East was not in compliance with any U.N. resolution, saying that countries which took their troops there took unilateral decisions. "China does not believe in the settlement of international disputes through war," the foreign minister said. Adding that in the U.N., China had voted for 11 resolutions which called for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, but abstained from voting for the Resolution 678 which called for the Iraqi withdrawal from its occupation of Kuwait or face forceful eviction by 15th January.

China, alongside with France, Britain, the Soviet Union, and the USA are permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Criticizes U.S. on Mideast Issue

*EA1101200591 Nairobi KTN Television
in English 1600 GMT 11 Jan 91*

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, currently on an official visit to Kenya, today said China supports political changes in any country as long as the changes are evolved within the country. He said there was no such thing as a model system applicable to all countries. He said each country must evolve its own system suitable to its situation and people. Qian Qichen said no country has the right to dictate to another as to which system to adopt.

Regarding the Gulf crisis, the minister said his country held the same view as President Daniel arap Moi. He called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Qichen goes to Tanzania from here to complete his tour of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The Chinese minister advised African countries not to rely on foreign assistance but instead work for regional interdependence within the continent. The minister said although China was not a big economic power, she will continue offering economic assistance to African countries. He said these countries must start self-reliance for their own development. He said his country attaches great importance on the South-South commission, as it offers hope for the Third World countries. He said the financial realities facing the commission were known to his country.

On the call for an international peace conference by France to solve the Gulf and Middle East problems, Qichen said China has always been interested in such a conference. He said China believed that an international conference would embrace the whole spectrum of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. He blamed the U.S. and the Israeli Governments for resisting the convention of such a conference. [end recording]

Discusses African Reforms, Gulf

EA1201194591 Nairobi Domestic Service
in English 1600 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The visiting Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, said yesterday that African countries facing reduction of Western aid should promote regional cooperation and self-reliance and reduce over-reliance on external aid.

Addressing a press conference at a Nairobi hotel, Mr. Qichen, who was accompanied by the Chinese ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Wu Minglian, reiterated that his country will continue to promote and strengthen economic ties with Africa. He said that his visit to some African countries was to enhance the relationship between China and Africa. On political reforms in Africa, Mr. Qichen said that each country should be left to map out its own political destiny and choose its own political model that suit their realities.

On the Gulf crisis, he said his country was against the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and the amassing of foreign troops in the Middle East. He called for a peaceful settlement to the problem.

Chinese Ship Evacuates Nationals From Somalia

EA1201175891 Nairobi KENYA TIMES
in English 12 Jan 91 p 3

[By Sylvan Mghanga]

[Excerpts] One of the two vessels sent to Somalia by the Chinese Government to evacuate Chinese nationals and its embassy staff trapped in the war-torn Mogadishu town docked at the Port of Mombasa yesterday with 144 evacuees on board.

The MV Yongmen, a Chinese ship, docked at Berth Number 4 of the Mombasa Port at 8:15 am with 143

Chinese nationals and one Portuguese who immediately received instructions from officials of the Chinese Embassy not to disembark from the ship until they received clearance. Dressed in heavy linen clothes the evacuees received cheers from fellow Chinese who were offshore to meet them.

The grey coloured ship was received at the port by officials from the Chinese Embassy in Kenya. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Kenyan luxury cruise ship, Ambassador I abandoned her scheduled trip to Zanzibar and headed to the war torn port of Mogadishu to rescue foreign nationals trapped by the on-going fierce fighting between Somali troops and rebels, George Sunguh adds.

The cruise ship flying a Panamanian flag has reportedly suspended her scheduled local trips, normally between the coastal towns of Lamu, Mombasa and Zanzibar, to join in the rescue operations which have so far evacuated 197 foreign nationals to the Port of Mombasa. It could not immediately be established who had chartered the vessel for the rescue operation. [passage omitted]

Envoy to Somalia Beaten, 'Robbed at Gunpoint'

EA1301123091 Nairobi KTN Television
in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 91

[From the "Press This Sunday"]

[Text] The SUNDAY NATION and the SUNDAY STANDARD carry headlines of the ordeal of the Kenyan ambassador to Somalia, Jacob Ole Siparo, being beaten up and robbed at gunpoint while he watched helplessly. The envoy tells of his ordeal after escaping to the U.S. Embassy and then to Muscat, Oman. This is also carried on the front page of the SUNDAY TIMES with a color picture.

Somalia

Siad Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Peace Efforts

EA1301161091 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1115 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Council of Ministers met today at the Presidency under the chairmanship of Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, the SDR president.

During the meeting, Comrade Mohamed Hawadle Madar, the SDR prime minister, briefed the Council on the current series of meetings between the government and elders. At the meeting, the work of the government members was outlined. The current situation in the country and how the existing problems can be solved was also discussed at the meeting. The Council approved the talks with Somali elders and intellectuals with the aim of attaining lasting peace.

After the meeting had ended, Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, the SDR president, addressed the Council of

Ministers, acknowledging the efforts being made to halt the civil war that is taking place in the capital city. He called on both the government and the public to help in the efforts to secure peace negotiations. Comrade Siad expressed his gratitude to all participants in the meeting, which was intended to achieve [word indistinct] and to save the Somali masses.

Cabinet Meeting Called for 14 Jan

*EA1301181891 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1125 GMT 13 Jan 91*

[Text] All 75 people nominated from the public and the 25 from the government are reminded that the meeting scheduled to be held at the People's Hall today is now scheduled to take place instead at the old Presidency, (Afisioni), tomorrow at 10 a.m. You are asked to participate and be punctual.

Members of the cabinet, be they in Mogadishu or any other district of the country, who were absent from today's meeting at the Presidency are reminded to come to Mogadishu by any means possible and contact Comrade Mohamed Hawadle Madar, the Somali Democratic Republic prime minister, before tomorrow morning's meeting at (Afisioni). [Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali at 1541 GMT carries a similar announcement, except for the following variations: The meeting of the 100-member committee is scheduled to take place at the "Villa Baydhabo, Mohamed Abdalle Hassan Institute of Strategy"; and the cabinet meeting will take place at "Bilasomara, Villa Baydhabo."]

Premier Chairs Reconciliation Committee Meeting

*EA1201174491 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1400 GMT 12 Jan 91*

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the government reconciliation committee headed by Comrade Mohamed Hawadle Madar, the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] prime minister; elders; and intellectuals approved the appointment of committees and suggestions that it was hoped would achieve peace. At the meeting, the appointments of 75 people from the public and 25 from the government were approved to carry out the tasks of achieving peace. These people are expected to participate in a meeting that will take place at the People's Assembly. This hundred-member committee was said to be embarking on a task of achieving peace, halting the flow of Somali blood, and restoring security. [passage omitted]

The report adds that the reconciliation committee, elders, and intellectuals have also passed a resolution demanding a cease-fire with effect from today, four p.m. They have also appealed to the warring parties to abide by the truce to enable peace-talk efforts to succeed.

Comrade Mohamed Hawadle Madar, the SDR prime minister, has called on the Council of Ministers, ministers, and assistant ministers to participate in a special meeting tomorrow at nine a.m. at the Presidency. The

prime minister demanded strict punctuality for the meeting. The premier also called on the members of the People's Assembly to come to the meeting tomorrow at nine a.m. at the People's Assembly. He also called on them to be punctual.

Information Minister Speaks on Reconciliation

*EA1101155091 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1923 GMT 10 Jan 91*

[Speech by Omar Mohamed Aodurahman, information and national guidance minister, on 10 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. You, the Somali masses, who are suffering, whose blood is flowing, whose economy has collapsed—I would like to add to the addresses by the two Somali elders, namely Haji Ali Shidow Abdi and General Mohamed Abshir or Haji Mohamed Abshir, on peace by conveying to you the outcome of the efforts by the elders and government to end the bloodshed and to see if we can rebuild the collapsed economy and end the shame that has befallen us.

Of late, brothers, there have been meetings attended by elders, intellectuals, religious leaders, and government leaders on how to deal with our problems. The situation is grave. Our fate is in the balance—whether we shall exist as a Somali nation or not depends on what we do. All that we have built, all the precious blood shed for freedom is in danger of being brought to nought.

In the meetings, resolutions have been decided upon. As you are aware, the first resolution was to effect a cease-fire. The resolution was not opposed by anyone, although it has not yet come into effect. It has also been resolved that after the cease-fire, the bodies of our people who died foolishly by our hands should be removed from the streets and buried. Our third resolution was that the city is in danger due to lack of water, transport, and communications, and therefore we should start doing something about water and communications. Telephones and telex facilities are not working. We are cut off from the rest of the world.

We were already experiencing hardship, but our situation is now bleak because the little food and medicine we had has been pilfered and today we have nothing. You know how little we harvested from our farms.

We have to appeal for international assistance. But (which international body) can we appeal to? Can we approach those whose embassies we looted? We even looted the Red Cross, which extends assistance wherever there is need. We do not know how we shall face them. But some of the resolutions say that we should approach them, our shameful actions notwithstanding.

It has also been resolved that we should together confront looters. Both the government and the opposition

groups must regard the looters as enemy number one, and they should be dealt with.

Further, it was resolved that in order to enforce the cease-fire, people experienced in military matters be named who are acceptable to both sides in effecting the cease-fire. They are General Hussein Hassan Ali, General Ahmed Mohamed Sheikh, General Mohamed Hussein Daud, General Ali Ismail, General Mohamed Aden, General Mohamed Jama Abi, General Mussa Hassan Sheikh, General Mohamed Salah, General Mohammad Jama Bihi, General Hashi. [all names as heard] These men have been appointed to monitor the cease-fire, to be in contact with both sides, to be able to have free access to both sides, and to strive for peace.

Today, when the sixth meeting was held, attended by the government, intellectuals, religious leaders, the public, and the liberation fronts [as heard], it was resolved to form a committee consisting of six people to prepare an agenda for a general conference to discuss peace and the interests of the Somali people; three of the six people will be from the government and three will from the public. The three from the government side will be [Finance Minister] Abdirahman Jama Barre, [Interior Minister] Abdiqasim Salad Hassan, and [Transport Minister] Abdillahi Mohamoud Hirad. The three from the public are (Abdulaziz Nur Hirsii), (?Mohammad Said Ciid), known as gentleman [previous word in English], and Mohammad Abdirahman Haji Jama, known as Lugoyo. The six have been named to prepare the agenda that will be placed before a Somali general conference on peace and stability for the Somali people.

I will conclude by quoting our elders in the past, who have said the call for peace should be heeded. It should be realized that shooting will never solve anything.

Brothers, stop the shooting. Pay attention to the religious leaders, the elders, and the Somali Government. Respond to their calls for peace, expect the attainment of lasting peace, a just solution, and the realization of a united Somalis.

USC Claims Siad in UAE, To Go to Egypt

AB1201173591 Paris AFP in French 1626 GMT
12 Jan 91

[Text] London, 12 Jan (AFP)—General Mohamed Siad Barre, the Somali president, has been in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] since 7 January, according to a United Somali Congress (USC) communique issued today in London. The opposition movement, citing reliable sources, added that President Siad is a guest of the UAE leaders and was living in a villa on Dalma Island before moving into the Tawan Hospital of Al-Ayn.

Several Somali Government authorities, including Siad Barre's son Mesleh and Ahmed Aden Qeybe, the foreign affairs minister, are now meeting in Cairo to discuss the situation, added the communique. The USC believes that President Siad intends to ask Egypt for political asylum.

The USC has asked all opposition groups to join their efforts to return democracy to Somalia.

(A Somali Embassy spokesman in the UAE denied today that President Siad had taken refuge in Abu Dhabi and stated to AFP that he "is in his Mogadishu palace and is not in any danger.")

("President Siad Barre is in his Mogadishu palace, where he is engaged in his normal activities. He and his family members are in no danger," the spokesman added.)

SNM Rebels Kill 3 Officers in Berbera Raid

AB1101213691 Paris AFP in English 1839 GMT
11 Jan 91

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 11 (AFP)—Rebels of the Somali National Movement (SNM) said Friday that they had killed three army officers in a raid on the northern port city of Berbera, the movement's clandestine radio reported.

It did not say when the raid took place but reported that it was at a place called Sheek near the port. It also said the rebels had set ablaze a power generator in the area.

The SNM has been fighting since 1981 to overthrow President Mohamed Siad Barre who is currently under siege in the capital, Mogadishu, from another rebel group, the United Somali Congress.

Mogadishu Police Ordered To Report to Stations

EA1201175091 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1607 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The commander of the Somali police force has ordered all members of the Somali police force of Benadir region [Mogadishu and environs] to report to their police stations within 24 hours as of this announcement. The orders applies to all senior officers, sergeants, corporals, lance corporals, and privates. Should it not be possible for them to report to their police station, they should report to the nearest police center. Anyone who fails to comply with this order will be dealt with according to the law. Police center heads are required every day to submit a list of members of the police who have reported.

Further on Evacuation Efforts, Fighting

Italian Planes Unable To Land

AB1101171891 Paris AFP in English 1632 GMT
11 Jan 91

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 11 (AFP)—Two Italian cargo planes heading for the Somali capital Mogadishu to evacuate about 90 people from the Italian embassy had to turn back Friday without landing because the fighting between rebels and government troops was too fierce. A diplomat said a fresh attempt would be made on Saturday.

A North Korean diplomat was killed and several people wounded in fighting around the embassy late Thursday,

diplomatic sources in the Kenyan capital reported. The embassy is the last one open in Mogadishu, where the United Somali Congress has been battling the army since December 30. Ambassador Mario Sica is among those awaiting evacuation to Kenya's port of Mombasa.

Italy's Second Attempt Fails

*AB1201102491 Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT
12 Jan 91*

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 12 (AFP)—Italy's second attempt to evacuate some 90 people from its embassy in war-torn Mogadishu failed Saturday because of heavy fighting between rebels and government forces, diplomatic sources said. Two Italian cargo planes took off from the Kenyan port of Mombasa, but were unable to land in the Somali capital, where rebels of the United Somali Congress (USC) have been battling forces loyal to embattled President Mohamed Siad Barre since December 30. A North Korean diplomat was killed and several people wounded in fighting on Thursday around the embassy, the last open in Mogadishu. Ambassador Mario Sica is among those awaiting evacuation to Mombasa.

195 Evacuated

*AB1201153891 Paris AFP in English 1518 GMT
12 Jan 91*

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 12 (AFP)—An Alitalia Airbus on Saturday successfully evacuated 195 people, including 190 Italians, from the Somalian capital of Mogadishu,

diplomatic sources said. The airplane, which took off from Mombasa, Kenya, was expected to arrive at Rome's Leonardo de Vinci airport late Saturday. In Rome, the Italian Navy announced that one of its ships had picked up ten people, including six Italians and four Somalians, off of the Somalian coast near Mogadishu.

Italian Embassy, Envoy Evacuated

*AB1201155091 Paris AFP in French 1513 GMT
12 Jan 91*

[Text] Nairobi 12 Jan (AFP)—On Saturday afternoon, the second attempt to evacuate the Italian Embassy in Mogadishu was successful, according to diplomatic sources in Nairobi. Italian Ambassador Mario Sica and 130 others boarded two Italian planes which flew under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

AFP Reports Fighting

*AB1301105891 Paris AFP in English 1047 GMT
13 Jan 91*

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 13 (AFP)—Fighting continued overnight in the centre of the Somali capital as Somali Government forces battled rebels of the United Somali Congress, diplomats in the region said Sunday. Gunfire was heard in several parts of the city, the sources said, but they were unable to pinpoint the exact location of the fighting. Italian planes evacuated more people, including the Italian ambassador, Friday and Saturday after giving up two earlier attempts because of the intensity of fighting.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Foreign Minister Talks With U.S. Special Envoy

*MB1101184691 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1758 GMT 11 Jan 91*

[Text] Pretoria Jan 11 SAPA—The South African Government would consider any American request for aid in the Gulf crisis but no such request had been received, Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha said in Pretoria on Friday.

He was speaking to reporters following his meeting with U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Herman Cohen.

Mr. Botha said the United States could fully rely on support from South Africa, which would make her bases and harbours available if requested.

Mr. Cohen said he always found Mr. Botha's analysis of southern African events unique and helpful. He was pleased about the government's positive response to the ANC's [African National Congress] proposal for an all parties' congress as a means of getting negotiations started.

Mr. Botha, in an informal discussion with reporters, said he did not believe war to be inevitable in the Gulf.

If Iraqi President Saddam Husayn could be persuaded that his country would not be destroyed if he withdrew from Kuwait there was a chance of avoiding war, said Mr. Botha.

However, Mr. Husayn believed that war was a way of life, he added.

"He believes that you obtain security by grabbing, exerting yourself, attacking, and being abrasive."

Added Mr. Botha, "he does not get nervous, ever. He would test his opponents' willpower till the last moment."

Ironically, South Africa's steps to counter sanctions had made her especially suited to weather the effects of war breaking out in the Gulf, such as increases in fuel prices.

Mr. Botha wondered whether the superpowers had not suffered from a "intelligence vacuum" to allow the "giant monster" of a crisis to assume the proportions it had.

One of the results of the situation might be the introduction of international control measures over the development of weapons and missiles, similar to the control that had been placed on the development of nuclear weapons, Mr. Botha said.

Anti-Israeli, U.S. Demonstration in Cape Town

*MB1301193291 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1910 GMT 13 Jan 91*

[By Charl de Villiers]

[Text] Cape Town Jan 13 SAPA—Masked men shouting "Death to Israel and the United States" burnt the Israeli and USA flags at a meeting in Cape Town on Sunday against American military intervention in the Gulf.

The flag-burning came as about 400 people started streaming from a cinema in Rylands, near Athlone.

The men, their heads wrapped in bedouin-type cloths, set fire to the replica flags on the cinema steps while shouting anti-Israeli and American slogans.

The meeting, hosted by the Thornhill Residents' Association, was called in protest against American and allied involvement in the Middle East.

Addressed by leading African National Congress [ANC] figures, it was marked by strong support for the Palestinian cause and anti-Israeli sentiment.

Shouts of "Allah hoe akbar" ("God is great") added to the militant pro-Palestinian flavour.

Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha came under fire for pledging South African Government support to the U.S. military effort in the Gulf.

Leading Western Cape ANC member Mr. Dullah Omar said Mr. Botha's recent pledge to U.S. under secretary of state, Herman Cohen, that SA [South African] facilities would could be used by U.S. Armed Forces had to be resisted.

"It is not good enough to sit and pass resolutions condemning U.S. intervention in the Middle East.

"We must go further, we have to organise and decide how we are going to stop imperialism in their assault on our people.

"If U.S. troops come to this country, we must make sure they get the welcome they deserve," said Mr. Omar.

Mr. Botha was speaking on behalf of "apartheid South Africa, not the oppressed people of the country, who will never support the U.S. in this war".

The common thread between Israel and South Africa was imperialism's support for unpopular regimes which ensured the exploitation of natural resources, said Mr. Omar.

Mr. Ahmed Kathrada, of the ANC Executive, said his organisation did not condone Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait on August 2 last year.

"We believe in the sovereignty of nations and that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait. There should be a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Middle East," he said.

The U.S., however, held Husayn to be the aggressor when U.S. Governments since WW II had been guilty of "shameful hypocrisy" regarding aggression against black people.

The U.S. involvement in the Gulf was aimed at controlling Middle East oil and establishing a military presence in the region, Mr. Kathrada said.

"The U.S. claims to be the defender of democracy and freedom. To put it mildly, this is a lie."

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"The U.S. has persistently supported the most tyrannical regimes and dictatorships in America, Asia and Africa," he said.

ANC Western Cape Treasurer Mr. Bulelani Ngcuka accused the U.S. Government of inconsistency regarding its diplomacy of "linkages."

In the case of Namibia, the U.S. would only support the implementation of UN Resolution 435 if the Cubans withdrew from Angola.

But in the Gulf, it had refused to link Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian areas to Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, he said.

A member of the audience, who identified himself as a representative of the ANC's Marxist Workers' Tendency, said the breakaway faction would support the Iraqi war effort against the U.S.

Sebokeng ANC Funeral Vigil Attacked 12 Jan

ANC Says 'At Least' 21 Killed

*MB1201050491 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0446 GMT 12 Jan 91*

[Text] Vereeniging Jan 12 SAPA—At least 21 people were killed in an attack on a funeral vigil in Sebokeng near Vereeniging early Saturday [12 January] morning. African National Congress [ANC] spokesperson Ms. Gill Marcus said.

She said up to 31 people may have been killed, and scores of wounded were in hospital.

Ms Marcus said the community had been warned such an attack would take place. People were attending a funeral vigil for an ANC member who had been kidnapped and killed. He is due to be buried Saturday morning.

Police had arrested his killers, but later released them, Ms. Marcus alleged.

The ANC believed they were the same people involved in the Saturday morning massacre.

Police had, as far as the ANC was aware, been notified of the warning about the imminent attack, Ms. Marcus said.

Community members had attributed the attack to vigilantes, she said.

'Vigilantes' Kill 27, Wound 29

*MB1201053891 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0506 GMT 12 Jan 91*

[Text] Vereeniging Jan 12 SAPA—Twenty-seven people were killed and at least 29 wounded in an attack with AK-47 automatic rifles on a funeral vigil in Sebokeng early Saturday [12 January] morning, police said.

Police were on the scene and still counting the dead and injured, said SA [South African] Police liaison officer Colonel Johan Mostert.

He said people in a car had pulled up outside a house where a large number of ANC [African National Congress] members and supporters were holding a funeral vigil in tents, and opened fire with AK-47 rifles.

Earliest reports indicated the attackers had escaped.

African National Congress spokesperson Ms. Gill Marcus said up to 31 people may have been killed in the attack.

She said the community had been warned such an attack would take place. The funeral vigil was for an ANC member who had been kidnapped and killed.

Police had arrested his killers, but later released them, Ms. Marcus alleged. The ANC believed they were the same people involved in the early Saturday morning massacre.

Police had, as far as the ANC was aware, been notified of the warning about the imminent attack, Ms. Marcus said.

Community members had attributed the attack to vigilantes, she said.

'Police Handling' Criticized

*MB1201063691 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0627 GMT 12 Jan 91*

[By Thami Mkhwanazi]

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 12 SAPA—African National Congress [ANC] internal leader Mr. Walter Sisulu on Saturday [12 January] criticized police for their handling of the early morning massacre with AK-47 rifles of 30 people attending a funeral vigil of an ANC member.

ANC spokesperson Ms. Gill Marcus earlier said the community had been warned of the imminent attack and had, as far as she was aware, notified the police.

Mr. Sisulu said the ANC was concerned about the common usage of the AK-47 rifle in crime by gangs "and the fact the police are allegedly the biggest stockists of AK-47 rifles."

He said the government had gathered stocks of the automatic weapon during its involvement in Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Vlok Expresses 'Outrage'

*MB1201065191 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0644 GMT 12 Jan 91*

[Text] Cape Town Jan 12 SAPA—Law and Order Minister Mr. Adriaan Vlok on Saturday [12 January] expressed shock and outrage at the early morning massacre of 30 mourners at a Sebokeng funeral vigil, and gave his assurance everything possible would be done to track down the killers.

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Spokesman for Mr. Vlok, Capt Craig Kotze, said the minister appealed to the public to give the police every assistance in this regard.

He said the incident underlined the senselessness of violence in any context, and further emphasised the need to remove weapons such as the AK-47 automatic rifle from the streets.

PAC 'Strongly' Denies Role

MB1201072191 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0714 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 12 SAPA—The Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) on Saturday [12 January] strongly denied that it was responsible for the horror killing of about 30 people at a night vigil in Sebokeng early on Saturday morning.

PAC spokesman Ntsundeni Madzunya said they deplored the massacre and believed in unity among the "African masses".

"We do not believe that violence of such a nature would help our struggle. We strongly condemn the massacre, especially at a night vigil which is sacred to the family," said Mr. Madzunya.

Azapo Condemns 'Massacre'

MB1201081291 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0802 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Durban Jan 12 SAPA—The Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) on Saturday [12 January] morning condemned the massacre of more than 30 people at a vigil in Sebokeng earlier in the day.

"We strongly condemn the killing of innocent people who had gone to pay their respects to a man who died in the ongoing bloody violence that is tearing the black community apart," said Azapo spokesman Strini Moodley.

"This incident shows that we need a national code of conduct which will force all organisations to take responsibility for the ill-disciplined and criminal behaviour of their members and supporters.

"Azapo is tired of the Pontius Pilate attitude that is being adopted by organisations in the liberation movement. They can no longer wash their hands of responsibility for the continuing violence. It is not good enough to stand on platforms and sue for peace," said Mr. Moodley.

Death Toll Reaches 35

MB1201090091 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0839 GMT 12 Jan 91

[By Ada Stuijt]

[Text] Pretoria Jan 12 SAPA—Thirty-five people died and 23 were seriously injured at Saturday [12 January] morning's vigil massacre in Sebokeng, the SAP [South African Police] confirmed at 10.15 AM [0815 GMT] on Saturday.

Colonel Frans Mostert, SAP spokesman, told SAPA that a unit of the SAF riot police had been posted on the scene to protect the mourners prior to the shooting—but had been asked by the ANC [African National Congress] members to leave as the people had not wanted them there.

He said the attack on the group of about 300 ANC mourners was launched by an unknown group of men, who had lobbed two RGD handgrenades into the tent, and fired at them with AK-47 semi-automatic rifles.

Col. Mostert said the allegations that the police had arrested and released the alleged murderers of the local civic association organiser, Mr. Mphikeleli Christoffel Nangalembe, for whom the vigil was being held, were "simply false".

The four men, alleged by the community to have been arrested by police, were in fact picked up for illegal ownership of AK-47s and later released on bail by the courts—and police were, moreover, certain that these men had had nothing to do with Mr. Nangalembe's murder, Col. Mostert said.

Police would investigate other reports that 9-mm bullets had allegedly been identified by medical personnel at Sebokeng Hospital.

PAC Expresses Condolences

MB1201100891 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0959 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 12 SAPA—The PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] on Saturday [12 January] mourned the killing of 35 people at an all-night vigil in Sebokeng on Saturday morning and went on to point out that the brother of the deceased was a senior PAC member in the township.

"We strongly reject the bitter violence that has wreaked havoc on the people of Sebokeng. We wish to point out that the deceased's brother, Mandla Nyangalembe, is a senior member of the PAC in Sebokeng. The PAC therefore, could not in any way be associated with the attack," said Mr. Basner Ngceba.

He added that the organisation had dispatched a delegation to Sebokeng to report on the massacre.

"We feel incidents of this nature cannot assist the victims of settler colonialism. We wish to show our condolences and sympathy with all family members grieving as a result of this brutal killing," said Mr. Ngceba.

Further on Massacre

MB1201140091 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1315 GMT 12 Jan 91

[By Neil Oelofse and Ada Stuijt]

[Text] Vereeniging Jan 12 SAPA—Gunmen opened fire on a crowd of people attending a funeral vigil for an ANC [African National Congress] activist at Sebokeng

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township early on Saturday morning, killing 35 mourners and wounding at least 40 others.

[Umtata Capital Radio in English at 1300 GMT on 12 January reports that two people wounded in the Sebokeng shooting have died in hospital bring the death toll to 37.]

The more than 200 men, women and children had gathered in a tent adjacent to the small home of Mrs. Rachel Ncube, the aunt of unrest victim Mr. Mphikeleli Christoffel Nangalembe.

He was an organiser of the ANC-aligned Sebokeng Civic Association. His body was found on a dump near the township on January 6 after he was abducted the previous day. He had been strangled.

The relatives accused police of failing to provide protection for the wake. However, police told SAPA that their unrest unit, which had been stationed near the house, was asked to withdraw by ANC members before the massacre.

And Vaal Council of Churches and ANC member Sol Tsadetsi said one of the gunmen—identified by a mourner at the funeral—apparently was a Sebokeng gangster who had been in police custody just two days before the shooting. He had been arrested for the illegal possession of an AK-47 automatic rifle.

The police spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Johan Mostert, also denied the allegations.

Lt.-Col. Mostert said four men had been arrested last week in connection with the illegal possession of AK-47 automatic rifles and had been granted bail by a court during their appearance. Police, moreover, were convinced that these men had had nothing to do with the kidnapping and murder of the late Mr. Nangalembe.

SAPA journalist Neil Oelofse, who visited the scene of the massacre, said it appeared from eye witness accounts that the apparent motivation for the assassination was political. ANC officials, who arrived on the scene later in the morning, blamed Inkatha-hired thugs.

Inkatha Freedom Party, approached by SAPA for comment, had not yet replied to these allegations by 3 PM.

Eye witnesses differed on the number of gunmen involved.

A local ANC Youth League official, Mr. Mandla Mabuko, who was at the vigil, said he saw between 15 and 20 men armed with rifles approach the small, open-ended tent where people were praying and singing.

"One of the gunmen fired a shot into the air and the other ran forward and shot at the people."

Other eye-witnesses have, however, disputed earlier reports that a car had been involved in the massacre.

Injured victims told SAPA from their hospital beds on Saturday afternoon that the group of men had approached the mourners' tent on foot and had opened fire on the people without saying anything.

Twenty-seven people died at the scene and another eight passed away soon afterwards at Sebokeng's 700-bed hospital.

At midday, doctors were still fighting to save the lives of another 14 critically people.

A total 24 of the 40 wounded were admitted to the hospital.

Another Inkatha and/or gangster connection was made by an unidentified man, who was introduced to SAPA and a team from German television by an ANC spokesman.

The man alleged he had been involved with the gangsters until about two weeks ago when he was asked to point out ANC members "who would be dealt with" by Inkatha.

The man, who did not want to be identified for his own protection, said he had refused to point out anybody and has since become a target.

The ANC spokesman said it appeared from the man's account that Inkatha might have employed the gangsters to attack the funeral vigil.

Wounded victims of the attack provided sketchy details of the shooting from their hospital beds on Saturday.

Ms Rosta Pitsa, 34, who was shot in the body and a foot, said she heard automatic rifle fire and had attempted to run away.

"I saw many people fall in front of me. I was hit by a bullet and also fell down. When I tried to stand up and run again, more bullets hit me."

Johannes Mpondo, 17, and Petrus Tladi, 19, both of whom claimed to be ANC-supporting comrades of the late Mr. Nangalembo, described how they had seen more than 10 men armed with rifles approach the vigil crowd and start shooting. He was shot in the buttock.

"They never said anything. They just opened fire," said Mr. Tladi, who was hit twice in the leg.

Survivors claimed that Mr. Nangalembe's father and brother, who had travelled from the Orange Free State to attend his funeral, were apparently also killed in the attack.

However, this could not be confirmed with official sources on Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Ncube said police had requested that the funeral be postponed until 5PM Saturday so that their investigation could proceed. She said while they had had no choice in the matter, she was very unhappy about the request.

Meanwhile, the minister of law and order, Mr. Adriaan Vlok, said in a statement on Saturday morning that the brutal slaying of mourners at the vigil in Sebokeng "was a most shocking and horrifying deed".

"I wish to express my condolences on behalf of the SA [South African] Police [SAP] to the next of kin of those killed and to those injured."

"At the same time, I wish to give the assurance that the SAP will not rest until the killers have been tracked down. South Africa can do without this senseless brutality."

"I appeal to anyone, who has any information which can assist the police in their investigation, to supply the information to the SA Police," Mr. Vlok concluded.

The PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] on Saturday mourned the killing of the 35 people and went on to point out that the brother of the deceased was a PAC member in the township.

"We strongly reject the bitter violence that has wreaked havoc on the people of Sebokeng. We wish to point out that the deceased's brother, Mandla Nangalembe, is a member of the PAC in Sebokeng. The PAC, therefore, could not in any way be associated with the attack," said Mr. Basner Ngceba.

He added that the organisation had dispatched a delegation to Sebokeng to report on the massacre.

"We feel incidents of this nature cannot assist the victims of settler colonialism. We wish to show our condolences and sympathy with all family members grieving as a result of this brutal killing," said Mr. Ngceba.

Azapo's [Azanian People's Organization] Strini Moodley also condemned the massacre, saying it was time the "liberation movement stopped conducting itself in a Pontius Pilate manner".

"Azapo is tired of the Pontius Pilate attitude that is being adopted by organisations in the liberation movement. They can no longer wash their hands of responsibility for the continuing violence. It is not good enough to stand on platforms and sue for peace," said Mr. Moodley.

African National Congress internal leader Mr. Walter Sisulu on Saturday also criticized police for their handling of the early morning massacre.

Mr. Sisulu said the ANC was concerned about the common usage of the AK-47 rifle in crime by gangs "and the fact the police are allegedly the biggest stockists of AK-47 rifles".

He said the government had gathered stocks of the automatic weapon during its involvement in Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Inkatha's comment was requested earlier on Saturday, but had by 3.45 PM not yet been received.

Police Following 'Excellent Leads'

MB1201150691 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1451 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 12 SAPA—Police have confiscated two AK-47 rifles and three petrol bombs and are investigating whether these arms had been used in the pre-dawn funeral vigil massacre at Sebokeng on Saturday—which left 35 people killed and 40 injured.

Lieutenant Colonel Johan Mostert of the SAP [South African Police] Directorate in Pretoria could not confirm whether that there were any arrests, but said police were following "excellent leads".

Meanwhile, SA Police Commissioner General Johan van der Merwe said in a statement to SAPA on Saturday afternoon that a special investigation unit was formed to investigate the Sebokeng attack and police reinforcements were sent to man roadblocks in the area.

Gen. Van der Merwe appealed to residents not to undertake revenge attacks.

He appealed to all people with information to give it to police, and to refrain from making wild allegations which make the task of the police difficult.

The commissioner gave an assurance that all information would receive serious attention and all facts would be exposed.

14 Jan Press Review on Current Issues, Problems

MB1401100391

[Editorial report]

SUNDAY TIMES

Hope for Short, 'Decisive' War in Iraq—President Bush and his allies "have been patient to a fault with Saddam's posturings," notes a page 16 editorial in Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English on 13 January. "Yet their stand is clear and unambiguous: There can be no compromise with aggression, nor any reward for the exercise of it. If the Iraqis fail to pull back, they must be removed by force. To abdicate that principle would be to allow free reign to any dictator with trumped-up ambitions to extend his frontiers, and risk plunging the world into a new Dark Age of unbridled regional conflicts." If there is no alternative to war, "pray that it is short, sharp and decisive."

SUNDAY STAR

Call for Talks To Avoid Iraq War—"Even at this late hour and despite an apparently strong case for the West to wage war against Iraq, we believe jaw-jaw must take precedence over war-war," declares Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English on 13 January in a page 12 editorial. The French government believes Iraq must be "reassured" that the Palestine question will be debated at an international forum if its forces leave Kuwait. However, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and the United States believe the proposal "smacks of appeasement" and it has been rejected on those grounds. In SUNDAY STAR's view it "at least represents a shift from the path of disastrous confrontation."

THE STAR

Criticism of Subpoenas on Journalists—The South African Police's (SAP) response to criticism of its serving a section 205 subpoena on THE WEEKLY MAIL editor, ordering him to identify journalists who may have

witnessed an assault by Congress of South African Trade Unions officials, "betrays a wilful disregard for the professional responsibilities—and difficulties—and journalists," asserts a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 14 January. By saying that witnesses to assaults have a "citizen's duty" to produce evidence overlooks the "peril in which journalists are placed if they are seen to be part of the SAP's evidence-gathering operations." "If they are to be hauled before court as state witnesses, they too will become victims of the violence they are expected to record. The free flow of information will thereby be adversely affected—which is hardly in society's or the authorities' best interests."

THE CITIZEN

Bush 'Tried Everything' To Avoid War—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 11 January in its page 6 editorial is sure a "quick strike" against Saddam Husayn "immediately after he invaded Kuwait would have finished him off." Now "he has had time to prepare his defences." However, "President Bush can say that he tried everything he could to avoid it."

SOWETAN

U.S. Unlikely To Withdraw From Gulf—The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 14 January remarks that U.S. and allied forces "are hardly going to withdraw from the Gulf leaving President Saddam still in power in Iraq, presumably able and willing to embark on some other desperate adventure whenever he feels the urge." "America, the great consumer of crude oil from the Gulf, is hardly likely to let its interests be this seriously threatened again. As Europe returns to some sort of normality and the need for NATO forces there falls away it seems the next area of ongoing, American-led military occupation is going to be the Gulf."

BEELD

ANC's All-Party Call Constructive—Nelson Mandela's proposal for an all-party conference is "constructive and significant," notes an editorial on page 12 of the Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 9 January. "Actually it is the same as the Great Indaba which the government has had in mind for years, even before the De Klerk era. With all indications that the remaining stumbling blocks in the way of negotiations will soon be removed, it would be good if the government and leaders like Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi start talking as soon as possible about the holding of such a conference. As Mr. Mandela rightly remarked, the ANC and the National Party are the major players, but certainly not the only ones. If, therefore, they take the initiative, it would encourage other parties."

Black Youth Needs Education for New South Africa—A second editorial on the same page of BEELD declares: "Black political organizations now have a golden opportunity to let their influence be felt so that the black youth

can get the education and training that the new South Africa expects of them." "It is time that black leaders and organizations finally realize that the salvation of black education does not lie in stayaways, political slogans like 'liberation before education', and the ever-accusing finger pointed at the government. Its salvation lies in the utilization of all opportunities; in discipline; and in the responsibility of normalizing school attendance. It is praiseworthy that the Pan-Africanist Congress understands this. This organization and others must assist the corrective actions of the government by word and, more especially, by deed."

CP Rejection of All-Party Conference 'Invalid'—The unseemly haste with which the Conservative Party [CP] expressed its opposition to the proposed all-party conference seemed very much like the pre-emptive action of a party leadership which is worried about the possibility of deviant noises from among its followers," says an editorial on page 12 of the Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans of 10 January. "This concern is not unfounded, as there is a growing realization, even among whites, that speedy negotiation is not just inevitable but desirable. The CP's criticism that such a conference does not provide for the Afrikaner's right to self-determination is invalid. The conference is precisely the place where that right, if it has merit, must be argued. There is simply no other way, unless the CP is considering the violence option. And that option is doomed in advance to failure."

TRANSVALER

All-Party Conference Chance To 'Expose' ANC—Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 10 January in a page 8 editorial says of all the reactions to the ANC's call for an all-party conference, the government's was the "most mature." TRANSVALER believes such a multi-party conference would "provide an opportunity" to "expose the ANC. To outrightly reject such a conference, as the Conservative Party is doing, is shortsighted."

DIE BURGER

ANC Moves Closer Toward Negotiations—"Despite all the militant remarks at the ANC's consultative conference at the end of 1990 there are hopeful signs that this organization is also eager for negotiations on a new dispensation to get underway rapidly," notes Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans on 10 January in a page 12 editorial. The ANC's call for a multi-party conference indicates a "change in attitude." "So far the ANC has created the impression that it wants to form a power bloc to represent all colored persons at the negotiating table. Now Mr. Mandela says it will be wrong for the ANC and the National Party to think they are the only parties that need to negotiate." The ANC is "indicating clearly it wants to move closer toward real negotiations, and not only with the National Party."

Liberia

Taylor Vows Military Action If Sawyer Interferes

AB1101201591 Paris AFP in English 2004 GMT
11 Jan 91

[Text] Monrovia, Jan 11 (AFP)—Rebel leader Charles Taylor said Friday that Liberians want West African peacekeeping forces to leave the country so they can "solve their own problems." National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) radio quoted Mr. Taylor as saying he would call for their departure January 25 when he planned to lead a peace march on the capital.

The peacekeeping force of some 6,000 troops from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Gambia, was sent to Monrovia in August by the 16-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to impose a ceasefire after eight months of brutal civil war.

Opposition parties here have rejected Mr. Taylor's peace march, and set forward an "urgent agenda" including the disarming of the warring factions, repatriation and resettlement of some 700,000 Liberians who have fled to neighboring countries. They said the march showed "a lack of sensitivity to the plight of the Liberian people" and called on the NPFL guerrillas to lay down their arms.

The other warring factions—Prince Johnson's break-away rebel faction and soldiers of the late president Samuel Doe's Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) have also declared that the timing for such a march was "not appropriate."

For his part, interim president Amos Sawyer said a peace march "was not a priority at the moment." But the rebel radio, which broadcasts from Gbarnga City some 150 kilometers (90 miles) north of here, quoted Mr. Taylor as saying he would go ahead with the march and advised Mr. Sawyer not to stand in the way. Mr. Taylor pledged to "flush Mr. Sawyer out of Monrovia militarily" if he stopped the planned march.

Residents said they feared that Mr. Taylor was about to violate a ceasefire signed by the three belligerents November 28 in the Malian capital Bamako and disrupt the peace which [was] restored in the capital and its environs.

Prince Johnson Reacts to Taylor Alliance 'Rumors'

AB1201173091 Monrovia Radio ELBC
in English 0900 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The leader of the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia, INPFL, Brigadier General Prince Johnson, says his efforts in the resolution of the Liberian crisis should not be mistaken at [word indistinct] peace initiatives. Brig. Gen. Johnson told reporters in Monrovia that the coming to Monrovia of a delegation of the National Patriotic Front, NPFL, does not imply an alliance between the INPFL and the NPFL.

According to him, the forthcoming all-Liberia conference was in line with the Bamako cease-fire declaration signed by Liberia's warring parties, including the Armed Forces of Liberia. Brig. Gen. Johnson, who was reacting to rumors that he intended to rejoin ranks with Mr. Charles Taylor, noted that peace is now unavoidable and there is a need for good relations among the AFL, INPFL, and the NPFL.

It was recently rumored that Brig. Gen. Johnson of the INPFL and Mr. Charles Taylor were planning to merge their factions. The INPFL leader, Brig. Gen. Johnson, was instrumental in the involvement of the international community in the Liberian civil crisis and his INPFL participated along with Liberia's political parties and interest groups in the election of the Liberian Interim Government of National Unity. Brig. Gen. Johnson and his INPFL had thrown their support behind the Liberian Interim Government of National Unity.

Lack of Security Prevents Factions Meeting

AB1201103291 London BBC World Service
in English 1709 GMT 11 Jan 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Liberian General J. Hezekiah Bowen was supposed to be meeting the other warring factions in Monrovia today to discuss details of the cease-fire. It would have been the first such meeting on Liberian soil since the cease-fire broke out a year ago. On the line to Monrovia, Julian Marshall asked our reporter Scott Sterns why the meeting had not happened.

[Begin recording] [Sterns] It seems more a lack of planning than political will and there was simply no one on the ground here from ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] who could make the necessary security decision—and certainly a (?higher up) decision—to communicate with Tom Woewiyu and Charles Taylor's technical committee to assure them that security was arranged in Monrovia for them to arrive. Commander Dogonyaro returned today, and I suppose we will get down to securing those arrangements. I do not think it has been—at least I have not been able to sense—any lessening of goodwill. Preparations within the individual technical committees have continued—on Prince Johnson's part, on the AFL's [Armed Forces of Liberia] part. The Johnson committee has been meeting with the AFL committee this week.

[Marshall] Do people seem ready to go?

[Sterns] Yes, the fact that nothing happened today certainly did not surprise anyone, nor did it seem to overly concern anyone. With Dogonyaro back in town—we understand that Bundu [Economic Community of West African States executive secretary] is coming tomorrow—things will be getting under way. [end recording]

Nigeria**Western Communities Strengthen Security Measures**

*AB1101160291 Paris AFP in French 0827 GMT
11 Jan 91*

[Text] Lagos, 11 Jan (AFP)—The French school in Lagos, the most important foreign educational institution in the Nigerian capital (650 students), will be closed throughout next week as a security measure as 15 January nears, it was learned from the school's management today.

The other foreign schools in Lagos (U.S., German, Italian, and so on) are expected to take similar measures, consular sources have added. The French Cultural Center also cancelled a tour by the "New Orleans" jazz orchestra for this weekend in Kano and Kaduna, two major Muslim cities in the northern part of the country, the same sources indicated.

Finally, the Alliance Francaise has decided to close its office in Kaduna temporarily. The United States has already evacuated all "non-essential" staff at its Kaduna consulate. The consulate was attacked last September by a group of Muslim demonstrators. The staff have been replaced by about 40 marines, reliable sources indicated in Lagos. The American Embassy in Lagos also plans to shut down its visa office and its cultural center, according to a circular to American residents in Nigeria.

U.S. Drawdown in North 'Unnecessary'

*AB1101193891 London BBC World Service
in English 1615 GMT 11 Jan 91*

[From the "Closing Headlines"]

[Text] The Nigerian Government has said that the decision by the United States to withdraw nonessential diplomatic staff from the mainly Muslim north of Nigeria was unnecessary. The government information minister said there was no threat to American citizens in Nigeria, nor was there any support for Saddam Husayn among Nigerians.

Police To Protect Foreigners

*AB1201123491 Dakar PANA in French 0938 GMT
12 Jan 91*

[Text] Lagos, 12 Jan (PANA)—U.S. citizens resident in Nigeria will be placed under special protection in order to avert any possible attack in connection with the outbreak of war in the Gulf, according to Alhaji Aliyu Atta, the inspector general of the Nigerian Police, who was quoted yesterday by the local press.

Mr. Atta, who pledged such protection on 10 January in Lagos, had earlier received a request from the U.S. Embassy to this effect. He, however, indicated that there was no cause for alarm and that neither the United States nor Iraq had the right to attack each other on Nigerian territory.

Mr. Atta also pledged protection against any attack for all expatriates in Nigeria and further requested that any aliens facing threats should inform the nearest police station.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Government has taken the necessary steps to facilitate the repatriation of Nigerians living in the Gulf region.

U.S. Kaduna Consulate Guarded

*AB1201130291 Lagos International Service
in English 1030 GMT 12 Jan 91*

[From the press review]

[Text] The NEW NIGERIAN reports that the U.S. Kaduna Consulate has been closed for business and its officials have also fled to Lagos following fears of impending attack as next Tuesday's [15 January] UN deadline on Iraq draws near. The paper also writes that armed policemen now guard the U.S. and British consulates in Kaduna as their missions in Nigeria had been ordered to close down.

Anti-U.S. Rallies Prepared For

*AB1201165291 Paris AFP in French 1612 GMT
12 Jan 91*

[Excerpt] Lagos, 12 Jan (AFP)—Nigerian authorities took significant security measures on Friday in Kaduna, considered the "capital" of the country's Islamic north, against eventual anti-American demonstrations, according to a reliable source today in Lagos. The Army and anti-riot police have increased their patrols, and vehicles equipped with water cannons were brought in, particularly in the area around the American Consulate.

It was calm all day Friday, the last Friday before the 15 January deadline, reported the same source. The U.S. Embassy in Nigeria feared, according to reports, that hostile demonstrations against its installations in Lagos and Kaduna might take place on the Friday Muslim prayer day. The Embassy stressed this to Americans living in Nigeria in a pamphlet.

The U.S. Embassy today denied having sent "Marines" to its Kaduna Consulate. A group of "nonessential" personnel was temporarily and voluntarily resettled in Lagos, according to an Embassy spokesperson. [passage omitted]

Paper Calls for Saddam 'To Bury His Pride'

*AB1301110691 Lagos Domestic Service
in English 0600 GMT 13 Jan 91*

[From the press review]

[Text] THE WEEKLY STAR calls for peace in the Persian Gulf. The paper examines the arms build up on both sides of the impending U.S.-Iraqi show of power and calls for sanity to prevail. It is against this background that the STAR appeals to President Saddam Husayn to bury his pride and withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait in the interest of world peace.

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15 Jan 1991

